

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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INFO USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION NATO

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 2200

USIA PASS IOR/RIM, IPS/PE, IBS, IWE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, US

SUBJECT: LESLIE GELB'S APRIL 9 NY TIMES ARTICLE ON

US-EC RELATIONS

1. EMANUELE GAZZO, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF AGENCE EUROPE,
THE HIGHLY-RESPECTED AND WIDELY-READ NEWS SERVICE IN
COMMUNITY CIRCLES, DEMANDS IN HIS SIGNED EDITORIAL
TODAY (APRIL 11) THAT "IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DESIRABLE
IF THOSE IN CHARGE OF AMERICAN POLICY .. GIVE STRAIGHT
ANSWERS" TO GELB'S ASSERTION THAT THE U.S. IS CHANGING
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ITS POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY (GELB'S

APRIL 9 NY TIMES ARTICLE WAS FEATURED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE ON APRIL 10.)

2. GAZZO SAYS GELB'S ARTICLE "IS PRESENTED AS A FAITHFUL AND TRUE ACCOUNT OF THE POLITICAL POSITION OF THE U.S. WITH REGARD TO WESTERN EUROPE." HE ADDS THAT "WE SHOULD AWAIT A CONFIRMATION OF THIS NEW POLICY LINE FROM THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES. EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO CHANGE THEIR OWN POLICY, ON THE BASIS OF COMMITMENTS, OBJECTIVE FACTORS AND THE INTERESTS INVOLVED. BUT THE OTHERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO WONDER WHAT THE VALUE IS OF RECENT OFFICIAL STATEMENTS IN WHICH.... SUPPORT FOR A UNITED EUROPE FIGURES AS A CORNERSTONE OF AMERICAN POLICY. IT MAY BE WONDERED WHETHER KISSINGER CAME TO THIS CONCLUSION BEGIN BRACKETS TO REVERSE US POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR EUROPEAN UNITY END BRACKETS IN HIS RECENT TALK IN LONDON WITH MR. WILSON, OR ON THE OTHER HAND WHETHER HE INFORMED HIM OF THIS SUDDEN CHANGE, THUS ENCOURAGING MR. WILSON'S SECESSIONIST ACTION."

3. THE AGENCE EUROPE EDITOR GOES ON TO SAY THAT "THE EUROPEANS MUST IN THEIR TURN" REPLY. THE EUROPEAN POSITION, GAZZO WRITES, IS THAT "THERE IS NO CHOICE TO BE MADE BETWEEN PARIS AND WASHINGTON; ANY ACTION AIMED AT WEAKENING THE COHESION OF THE COMMUNITY WILL MAKE RELATIONS BETWEEN IT AND THE U.S. MORE DIFFICULT." GAZZO ADDS "PARIS IS THE CAPITAL OF ONE COMMUNITY COUNTRY, AND ONE DOESN'T CHOOSE BETWEEN PARTNERS ON THE ONE HAND AND A THIRD COUNTRY ON THE OTHER." PARIS HAS CERTAIN POLICIES AS DO OTHER EC CAPITALS, AND THE COMMON OBJECTIVE OF THE NINE IS TO DECIDE ON "JOINT POSITIONS, WHICH, NOTE SURPRISINGLY, IS SOMETIMES A DIFFICULT TASK. THIS MAKES POSSIBLE THE DIALOGUE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

4. "IF ONE HAD TO BELIEVE THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DECIDE ON COMMON POSITIONS, THERE WOULD NO LONGER EVEN BE A COMMUNITY. THEREFORE, THE CHOICE WHICH THE UNITED STATES APPEARS TO BE FORCING ON EUROPE WOULD

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NOT EVEN ARISE. IT IS NOT IN THE INTEREST OF ANY MEMBER STATE OF THE COMMUNITY TO TRY TO DOMINATE THIS SAME COMMUNITY FROM WITHIN, BECAUSE EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THE ONLY RESULT WOULD BE THE END OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND CONSEQUENTLY DOMINATION OF EUROPE AND EACH COUNTRY OF EUROPE FROM THE OUTSIDE. OBVIOUSLY, IN THE SHORT TERM, FACTORS OF INTERNAL POLICY MAY EXERT THEIR ADVERSE INFLUENCE. BUT WHO IS GUARANTEED

EXEMPTION FROM THIS? IS THAT NOT SO, MR. NIXON?..."

5. THIS MORNING THE MISSION PROVIDED GAZZO WITH
EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT'S APRIL 10 NOON BRIEFING
(CARRIED IN USIS WIRELESS FILE - EUR-37) AND CALLED HIS
ATTENTION TO THE VEST STATEMENT THAT THERE HAS
BEEN NO CHANGE IN US POLICY IN SUPPORT OF EUROPEAN
UNITY. MYERSON

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